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above respecting the meagreness of our knowledge of the variations in *Xiphocolaptes* depending upon age, sex, and season, apply with even greater emphasis to the present group, specimens of which are so hard to procure that no very large series of any form is as yet available for study.—J. A. A.

Ridgway on Birds from the Galapagos Islands, the Abrolhos, the Island of Santa Lucia, and from the Straits of Magellan.—Mr. Ridgway has published two papers on the birds collected during the recent cruise of U. S. Fish Commission Steamer 'Albatross,' from New York around Cape Horn to San Francisco, California, the first* treating of the birds obtained at the Galapagos Islands. This collection is of special interest, as containing birds from two islands of this peculiarly interesting group from which no birds had previously been collected. Specimens of 47 species were obtained, including ten species not previously reported from the Galapagos Archipelago, eight of which are described as new. An annotated list of the species is given, followed by a tabular list of all the 69 species thus far found among these islands, showing their distribution among the different islands, with also special lists for each island, and the authorities on which their occurrence rests. The paper is thus an epitome of our present knowledge of the ornithology of this "classic ground."

A new genus, *Nesomimus* (type *Mimus melanotis* Gould), is provided for the peculiar Mimine birds of the Galapagos Islands, and the following new species are characterized: (1) *Nesomimus macdonaldi*, Hood Island; (2) *N. personatus*, Abingdon Island; (3) *Certhidea cinerascens*, Hood Island; (4) *Geospiza conirostris*, Hood Island; (5) *G. media*, Hood Island; (6) *Cactornis brevirostris*, Chatham Island; (7) *Camarrhynchus townsendi*, Charles Island; (8) *C. pauper*, Charles Island; (9) *Pycilonaetta galapagensis*, Charles Island. Two specimens of the rare *Creagrus furcatus* were obtained at Chatham Island, showing *Creagrus* to be, in Mr. Ridgway's opinion, one of the best characterized genera of the Larinæ. A single specimen of *Sula gossi* was collected at Chatham Island, and a specimen of *Hæmatopus galapagensis* from James Island.

From the above showing, says Mr. Ridgway, it is evident "that the avifauna of the Galapagos Archipelago is by no means exhausted as a field of promising research in the problem of the 'derivative origin of species.' Future exploration will no doubt add new species and extend the range of those already known. The largest island of the group, Albemarle, is still almost untouched; . . . two islands (Wenman and Culpepper) have not been explored at all, while it can be safely said that on none of the islands has anything like a thorough investigation of the bird-fauna been made."

* Scientific Results of Explorations by the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross. No. I. Birds collected on the Galapagos Islands in 1888. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XII, 1889, pp. 101-128.

The collection made at the Island of Santa Lucia, West Indies, * numbers 15 species. Of seven specimens of *Cæreba martinicana*, Mr. Ridgway says four have the superciliary stripe wholly white, and three bright yellow passing into white anteriorly, thus showing that his *Certhiola finschi* is untenable.

The collection from Abrolhos Islands numbers only five species, all water birds. The Straits of Magellan collection numbers 66 species, and includes a number of specimens of special interest. A species of *Geositta* is provisionally described as new (*G. longipennis*), its nearest ally being *G. antarctica* Landb. A specimen of *Upucerthia* forms the basis of a new species (*U. propinquua*), allied to *U. dumetoria*. Two examples of *Nycticorax* lead to the recognition of *N. obscurus* Bon. as a good species, it having before been merged by Mr. Ridgway with *N. nycticorax nævius* under the erroneous supposition that alleged specimens of *N. obscurus* he had examined were the true *N. obscurus*, which now proves not to have been the case.

For the bird usually called *Phalacrocorax brasiliensis* (Gm.), Mr. Ridgway adopts the name *P. vigua* (Vieill.), he considering Gmelin's bird unidentifiable. He finds *P. vigua* to be closely allied to *P. mexicanus*, the latter seeming to be "simply a smaller intertropical race of *P. vigua*, in which case it should be called *P. vigua mexicanus*."

The 'Albatross' collection was made by Prof. Leslie A. Lee, naturalist of the expedition, assisted by Mr. Charles H. Townsend and Mr. Thomas Lee.—J. A. A.

Chapman on the Genus Xiphorhynchus.—In a paper of nine pages, recently published in the 'Bulletin' of the American Museum of Natural History, † Mr. Chapman reviews the Dendrocolaptine genus *Xiphorhynchus*, his work being based on the combined material representing this group contained in the museums of Cambridge, Boston, New York, and Washington, including the types of Lafresnaye's species in the Museum of the Boston Society of Natural History. Nine species are recognized, of which two are described as new, namely, *X. dorsoimmaculatus* (habitat "Cayenne?"), and *X. rufodorsalis* (ex Corumba, Brazil). *X. venezuelensis* Lafr. MS. is also for the first time described; *X. falcularius* (Vieill.) is disentangled from *X. procurvus* auct. (*nec* Temminck), with which it has been confounded, and various manuscript names of Lafresnaye's are duly allocated by an examination of Lafresnaye's types.—J. A. A.

* Scientific Results of Explorations by the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer Albatross, No. II, Birds collected on the Island of Santa Lucia, West Indies, the Abrolhos Islands, Brazil, and the Straits of Magellan, in 1887-88. By Robert Ridgway. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. VII, 1889, pp. 129-139.

† A Review of the Genus *Xiphorhynchus* Swainson, with Descriptions of two new species. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. II, pp. 153-162. (Published July 5, 1889.)